

TETON DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER #20-1 B

**ORDER FORBIDDING LARGE GATHERINGS OVER 50 PEOPLE
WITHIN TETON COUNTY, WYOMING, INCLUDING THE CITY OF
JACKSON, WYOMING**

WHEREAS, Dr. Travis Riddell, M.D. serves as the Teton District Health Officer pursuant to Wyoming Statute § 35-1-306(a); and

WHEREAS, Teton County and the City of Jackson have formed the Teton Health District which encompasses all of Teton County, Wyoming including the City of Jackson, a Wyoming Municipality; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statute § 35-1-227 gives authority to the Wyoming Department of Health to direct and supervise county health officers in the state in making decisions in their best judgment to maintain the public health; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by her signature below, Dr. Alexia Harrist, the Wyoming State Health Officer, has reviewed this Order by Dr. Travis Riddell, the Teton District Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners have reviewed the order and agree, recommend, and affirm the issuance of this Order by Dr. Travis Riddell, the Teton District Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus as a worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on March 13, 2020, specifically stating that in "December 2019 a novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 ("the virus") was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally. . . . The spread of COVID-19 within our Nation's communities threatens to strain our Nation's healthcare systems. . . . Additional measures . . . are needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States." The National Emergency Declaration went on to declare that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, and

WHEREAS, Mark Gordon, Governor of the State of Wyoming, declared a State of Emergency for the State of Wyoming on March 13, 2020, stating that on March 11, 2020 an individual within the State of Wyoming tested presumptive positive for COVID-19 and the State of Wyoming is experiencing a public health emergency in response to the evolving outbreak of the novel coronavirus as of March 11, 2020. The Declaration of a State of Emergency directs the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions and in the Director's judgment any actions necessary to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Teton County, Wyoming is a tourist destination with 3 large ski areas, Grand Teton National Park, southern portion of Yellowstone National Park that attracts visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a method to control the community spread of the coronavirus is to limit large gatherings of people. The Teton County Board of County Commissioners have already cancelled the Rendezvous Music

Festival and the City of Jackson has canceled the Snowmobile Hillclimb on Snow King Mountain; and

WHEREAS, this Order may reduce the likelihood that individuals that may have been exposed to COVID-19 will spread the virus to others. By reducing the spread of the virus, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in Teton County. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in large gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of the virus such as, 1) the increased likelihood that gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; 2) the prolonged time period in which significant numbers of people are in close proximity, 3) the difficulty in tracing exposure when many people attend a single event, and 4) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygiene practices for many gatherings; and

WHEREAS, implementation and limitations on large gatherings and use of social distancing prevent initial exposure and secondary transmission to our most vulnerable populations, and are especially important for people over 60 years old and those with chronic health conditions due to the higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance as of March 15, 2020, that for the next 8 weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in person events that consist of 50 people or more. This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses.

NOW THEREFORE, the following is prohibited in Teton County, Wyoming, including within the City of Jackson, Wyoming:

Gatherings of 50 people or more for social, spiritual, and recreational activities including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, faith based, or sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers, and similar activities; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order does not apply to day to day operations of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses, and specifically does not apply to grocery stores, the Jackson Hole Airport, or the hospital, and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that all restaurants and liquor establishments within Teton County, Wyoming, including within the City of Jackson, Wyoming will limit the number of people within any single room in the establishment to 50 persons or the amount allowed by fire code whichever is less. A room being defined as a part of division of a building enclosed by floor, ceiling and wall, the latter of which exist for at least 75% of the square footage; and


IT IS FURTHER ORDER, that the District Health Officer may grant exceptions on a case by case basis after evaluating the request; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall remain in effect until such time as the Teton District Health Officer issues an Order revoking or modifying this Order; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that any person or legal entity that violates this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution under Wyoming Statutes §35-105 and 35-1-106; and

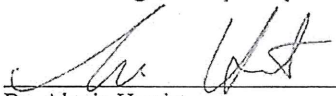
IT IS RECOMMENDED that the space in all public settings be able to accommodate patrons with at least six (6) feet distance from other patrons. This can be accomplished by asking patrons to queue with larger distances between them, removing tables and chairs, and encouraging the use of outside tables as springtime temperatures approach.

DATED THIS 17 DAY OF March, 2020.


Travis Ridell, M.D.
Teton District Health Officer

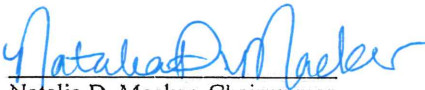
Direction to Issue Order

I, Dr. Alexia Harrist, the Wyoming State Health Officer, hereby state that I have reviewed the above Order and hereby direct, pursuant to Wyoming Statutes §§ Wyoming Statute 35-1-227 and -240(a)(i) and (iv), the Teton District Health Officer to issue the above Order Forbidding Large Gatherings over 50 people in Teton County, Wyoming, including the City of Jackson. As the Wyoming State Health Officer, I will reassess the necessity of this order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards.



Dr. Alexia Harrist
Wyoming State Health Officer

Reviewed and Affirmed

The Teton County Board of County Commissioners meeting in open public meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 have received a complimentary copy of the Order being issued by the Teton District Health Officer and state that the board has reviewed the Order and affirm the Order.


Natalia D. Macker, Chairwoman
Teton County Board of County Commissioners

Attest:


Amy Evans, Chief Deputy County Clerk
